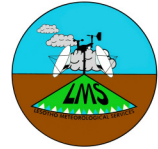




LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

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Agro-Met Monthly Update:

April 2008

Date of issue: May 2008

Highlights

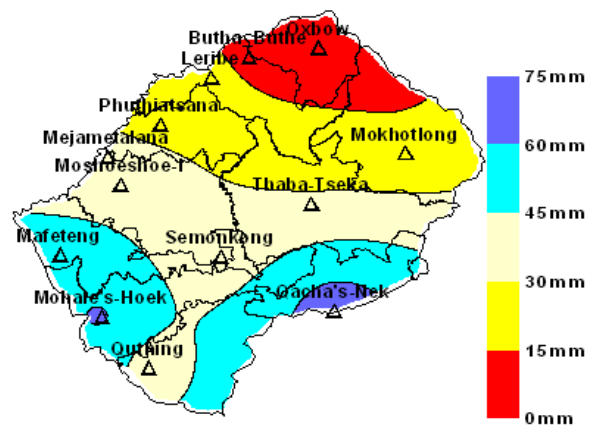
1. Below normal rainfall experienced at most places
2. Below mean monthly temperatures experienced
3. Crops matured

Rainfall

Monthly Actual Rainfall

Weather during the month of April 2008 was generally dry. Entire northern lowlands together with northeastern highlands of Mokhotlong recorded below normal monthly rainfall. Areas in the southwest together with central areas of the country had normal rainfall. Qacha's Nek became the only area to record above normal rainfall in April (see Map 1 & Table 1).

Highest and lowest monthly rainfall range from 71.4mm at Qacha's Nek to 7mm at Butha-Buthe. Rain days range from the lowest two days at Butha-Buthe to the highest nine days at Thaba-Tseka and Mejametalana (see Table 1).

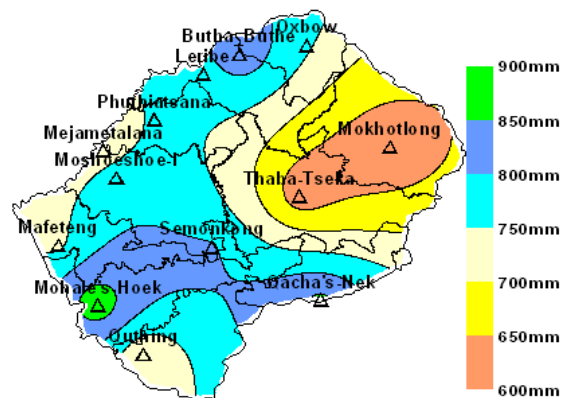


Map 1: April 2008 Monthly Rainfall

Cumulative Rainfall since September 2007

Cumulative rainfall since September 2007 remains normal at most places. It is above normal at Semonkong and Mohale's Hoek.

Map 2 depicts actual accumulated rainfall since September 2007 to the end of April 2008. Mohale's Hoek in the southwest has accumulated highest rainfall while areas around Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka have recorded lowest rainfall during the period.



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall (September 07 - April 08)

Agrometeorology Section
 Lesotho Meteorological Services
 P.O. Box 14515
 Maseru 100
 Lesotho

Tel: +266 22 324374
 Fax: +266 22 325 057/ 22 350 325
 E-mail: agrometeorology@lesmet.org.ls

Temperatures

Month of April recorded below normal mean monthly temperatures countrywide. That resulted from a series of frontal systems that continuously traversed over the country on several occasions during the month. Temperatures during the early days of the third dekad of April caused frost occurrence in all parts of the country.

Highest and lowest mean monthly temperature deviations were -1.8°C and -0.7°C at Semonkong and Quthing respectively (see Table 1).

Crop Stage and Conditions

Most maize and sorghum crops had matured when frost came during the early days of the last dekad of April. However, there were some crops which had not matured at the time and they were

therefore destroyed. Conditions of those crops which had matured ranged from fair to good.

Weather Outlook (April – June 2008)

Most parts of Lesotho will have an increased chance of receiving normal to above-normal precipitation for the period April to June 2008 season. Most parts of the highlands and the north-western parts of the country will have a greater likelihood of above-normal to normal

precipitation during the forecast period. Temperatures are expected to remain normal sliding towards the below-normal category.

REFER TO THE TABLE BELOW FOR A SUMMARY TABLE

Table 1

Station Name	ALT. (M)	Monthly R/Days	Monthly Rainfall (mm)		Cumulative R/Fall since September 07			Temperatures		
			Monthly R/Fall	Normal R/Fall	Actual R/Fall	Normal R/Fall	% Dep. from Normal	Monthly Mean Actual	Monthly Mean Normal	Deviation
Butha-Buthe	1770	2	7	53.7	842.1	777.6	8	13.0	14.5	-1.5
Leribe	1740	6	24.3	59.5	770.2	674.7	14	13.6	14.7	-1.1
Mafeteng	1610	5	50.6	64.7	739.1	627.1	18	13.7	15.1	-1.4
Mejametalana	1530	9	32.8	56.6	717.1	624.5	15	14.1	15.4	-1.3
Mohale's Hoek	1600	7	61.9	63	887.6	644.7	38	13.7	15.3	-1.6
Mokhotlong	2200	5	19.1	34.5	614.5	565.6	9	10.6	12	-1.4
Moshoeshoe 1	1628	5	38.8	48.2	780.5	683.6	14	14.0	15.5	-1.5
OxBow	2660	*	*	87.6	*	*	*	*	7.4	*
Phuthiatsana	1750	3	27.5	63	753.8	692.4	9	14.4	15.6	-1.2
Qacha's Nek	1970	8	71.4	41	863.8	715.3	21	12.4	13.7	-1.3
Quthing	1740	7	38.5	67	704.2	719.9	-2	14.3	15	-0.7
Semonkong	2458	8	36.3	46	804.5	582.5	38	8.4	10.2	-1.8
Thaba-Tseka	2160	9	32.6	36	617.3	571.4	8	10.6	12.1	-1.5